



Physician Assistants in the Maryland Health Workforce

GWIB Preparing for Reform: Health Care 2020
Baltimore, Maryland

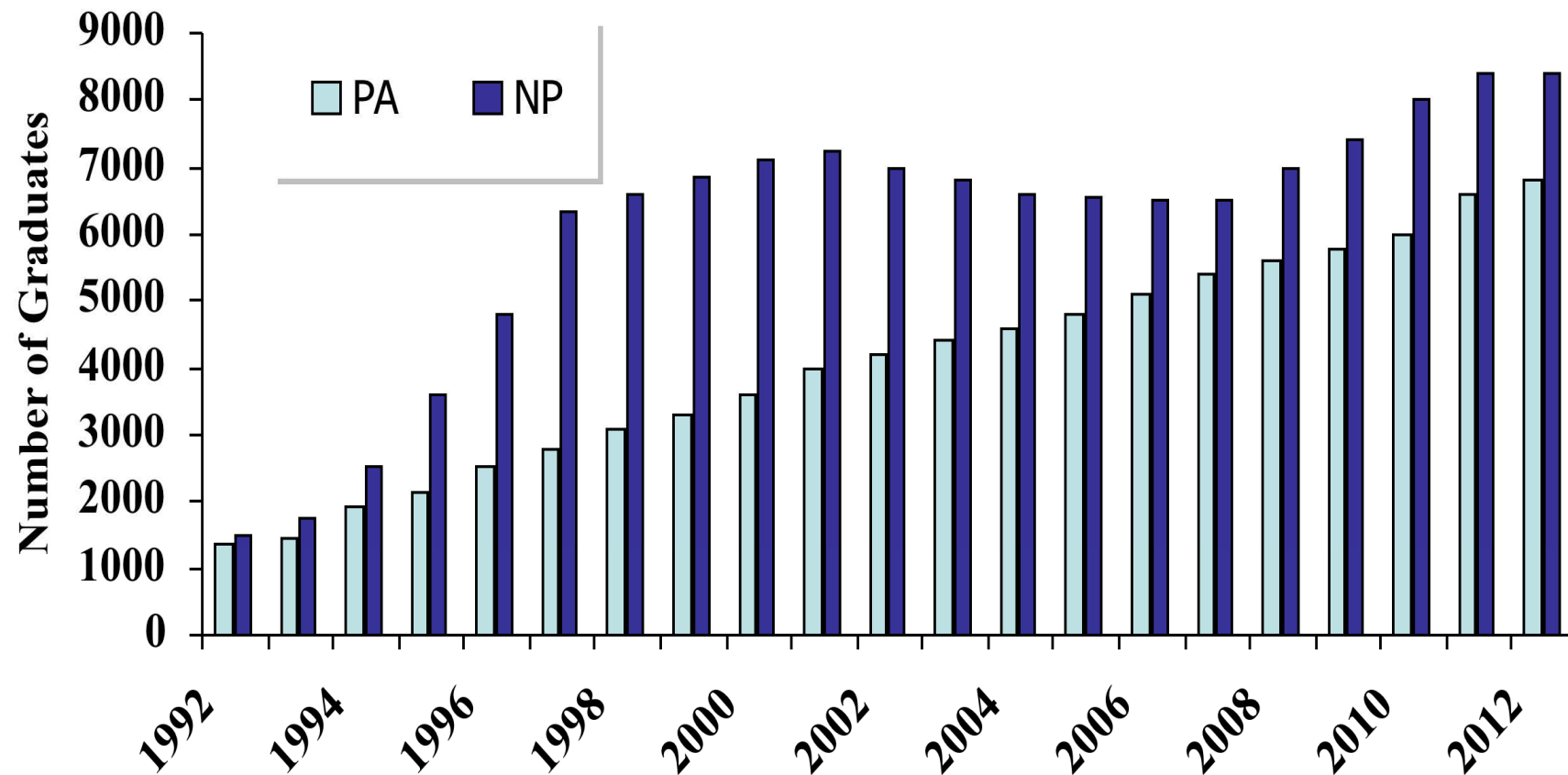
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US PA and NP Graduates Per Year (1992-present)



2001 Hooker & Berlin; modified 2011 PAEA & AACN data

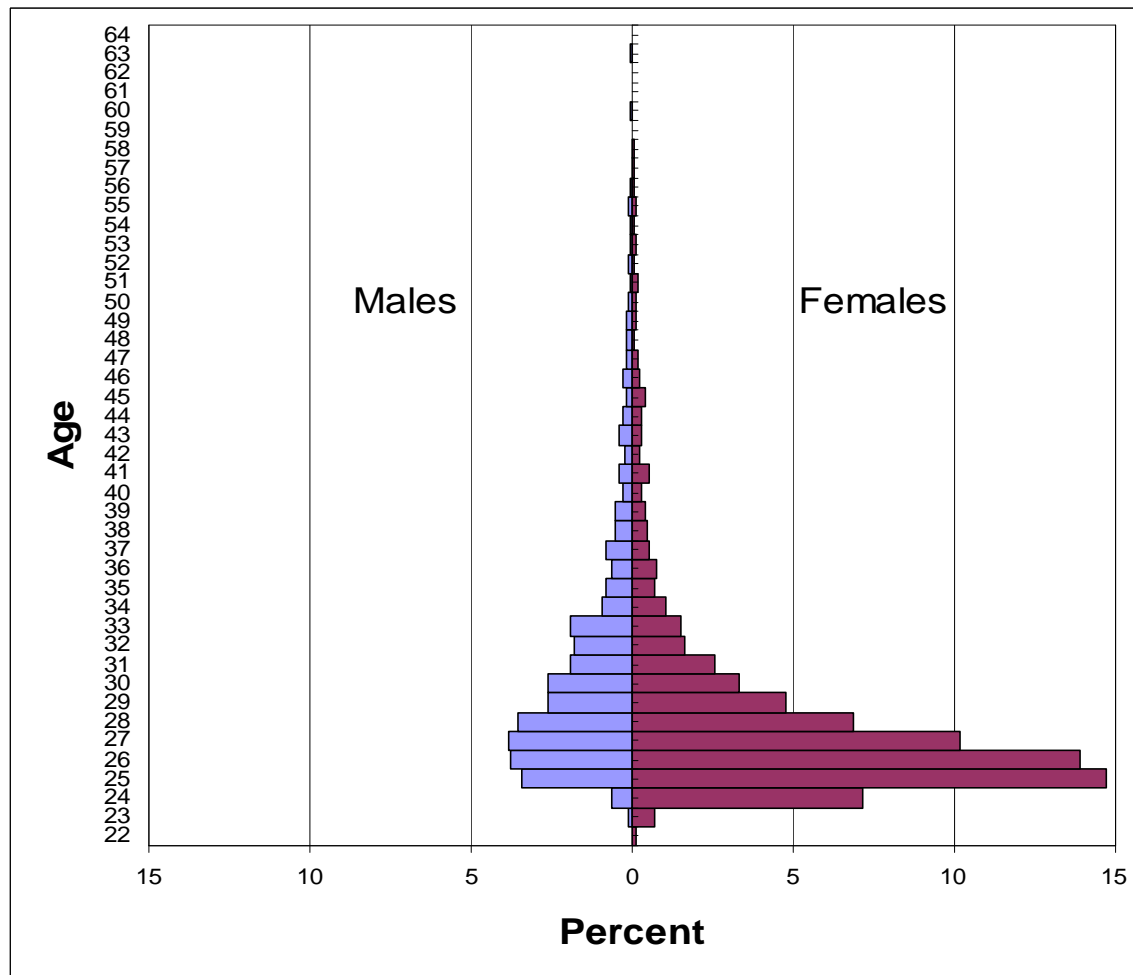


Profile of PA - 2010

Characteristic	2010 AAPA Census
Actively Practicing PAs	83,
Female	61%
Primary Care	31%
Age (mean)	38 years
Length in Practice (mean)	7 years
Length in Current Specialty (mean)	4 years
Inpatient Hospital Unit	14%
Emergency Department	14%
Hospital Based (includes OR, Outpatient, ED, and Inpatient)	47%



Age/Gender PA Graduates

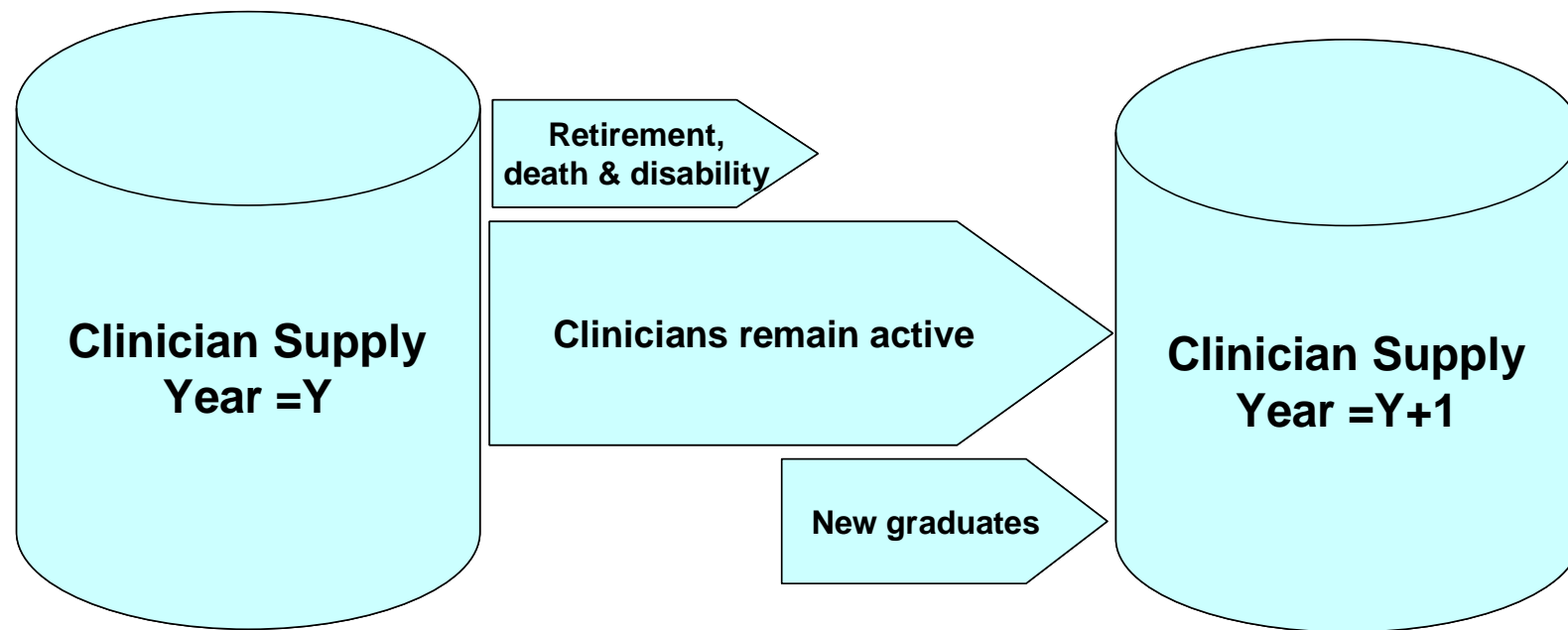


- N=4,100*
- Female: 75%
- Mean age: 30 years

* 2008 data



Estimating the Supply of PAs





PA Education

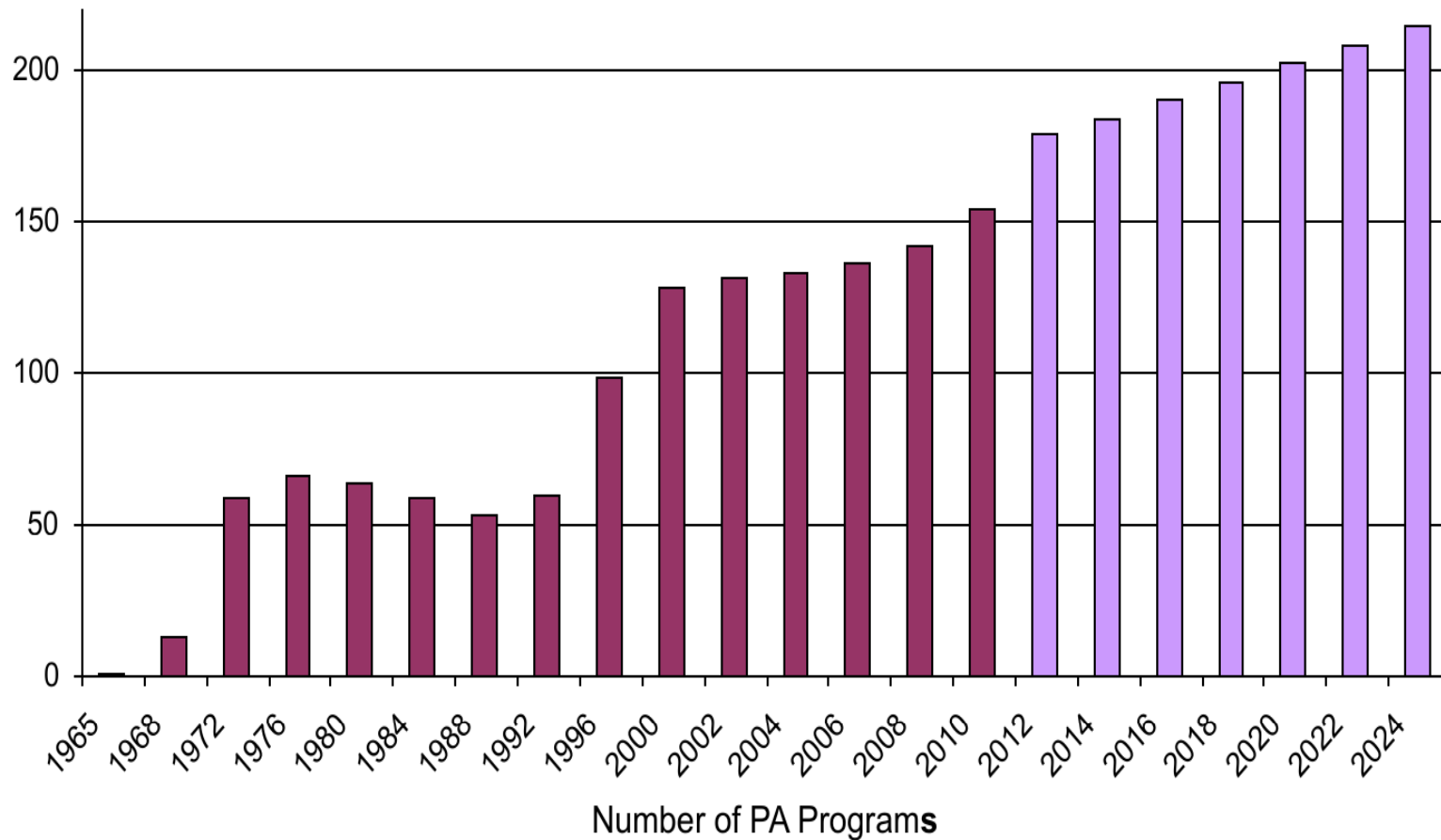
- Number of accredited programs =156
- 3 programs in Maryland (Towson/Essex, AACCC, UMES) and 2 in DC (Howard, GW)
- Estimated Maryland graduates/yr = 110
- Total Annual Graduates = 6,688



Ronald J. Cala

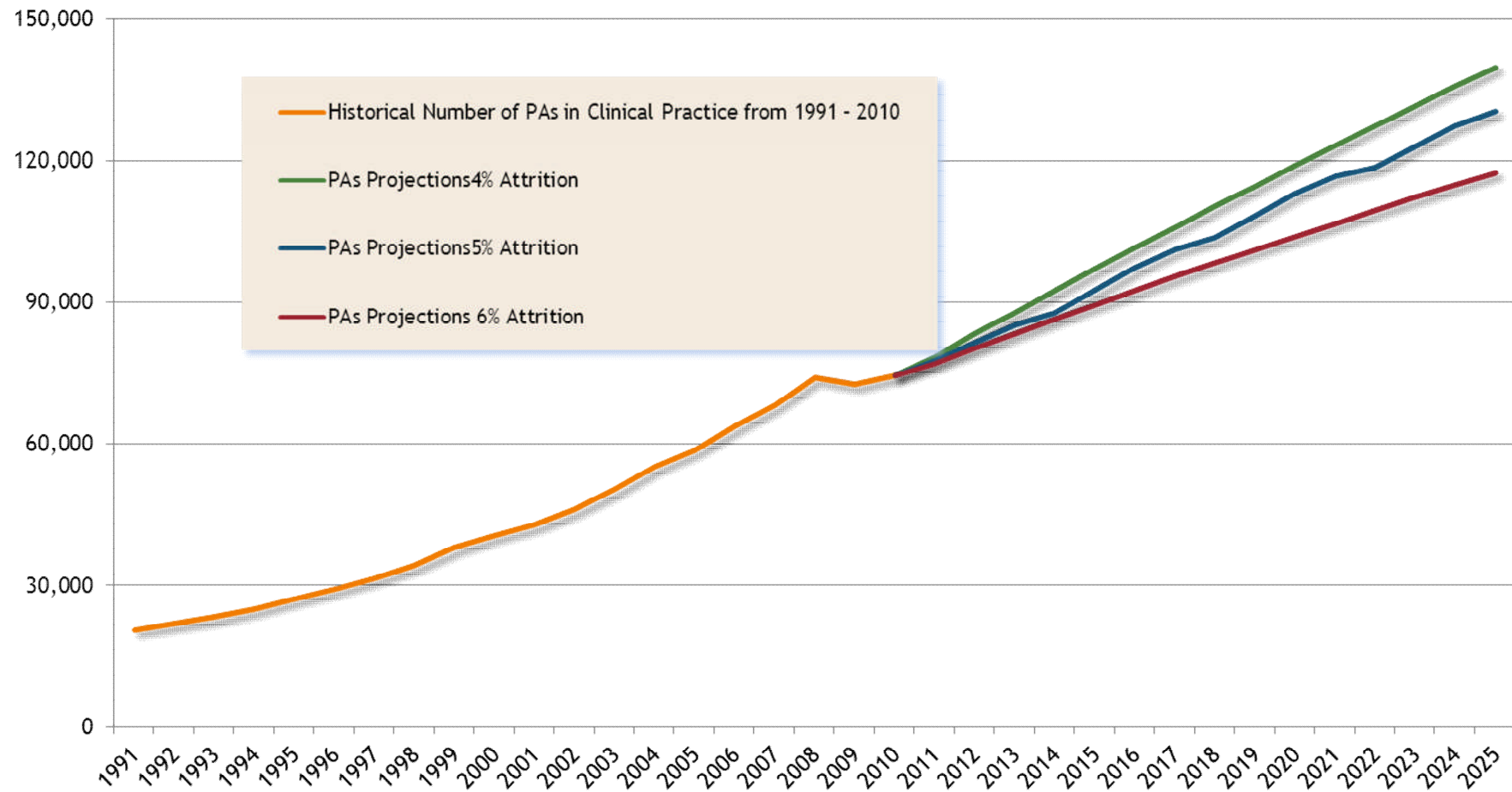


Projecting US PA Program Growth





PA Supply Projections



Hooker, R.S., Cawley, J.F., Everett, C. Predictive Modeling of the Physician Assistants Supply: 2010-2025. Public Health Reports 2011; 126: 708-716.



Projections

- By 2012, there will be about 82,000 PAs in active clinical practice
- By 2015, there will be about 95,000 PAs in active clinical practice
- Between 2015 and 2020, PAs will begin to retire in significant numbers
- By 2020, assuming a 6 percent attrition rate, there will be about 105,000 PAs in active clinical practice



Inhibitors of Expansion

- Insufficient clinical sites
- Insufficient faculty
- Opportunity cost of education becomes too dear; applications drop off.
- Demand outstrips supply, and another model replaces PAs.
- Marginal cost is not adequate to sustain the host institution support.
- Professional esteem declines.



Summary

- The number of PAs in active clinical practice will grow in the next ten years despite the retirement of the first large cohort of PAs
- Workforce policy makers can reasonably count on PAs to augment physician supply in the medical workforce
- The proportion of PAs in primary care will probably not increase substantially